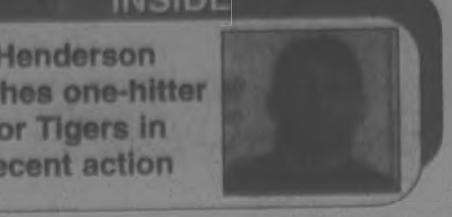
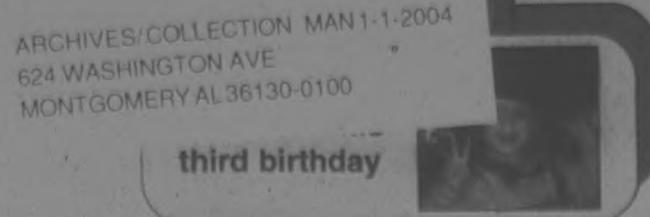


APRIL



The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 42 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, April 3, 2003 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts



SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS...With Operation Iraqi Freedom now in full swing, many local citizens are showing their support for the troops serving in the war zone. Walter and Betty Cox of Elba placed a yellow ribbon on their mailbox in honor of son-in-law, Major Rob Hunt, who is currently serving in Iraq. Hunt was stationed in Germany when the war began and was immediately deployed to the battlefield. While outside adjusting the ribbon Tuesday morning, April 1, Mrs. Cox said she is of course worried about her son-in-law and all the other troops. For now though, she said the important thing is for everyone to pray for the safety of all the soldiers and a safe return home for each.

Annual Elba High School Band Day set for Saturday, April 5

The streets of Elba will be filled with those who love music this Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. as Band Day makes its yearly visit to the downtown square.

Band Day has long been a tradition in Elba as the students, band boosters and community work together to generate funds for the band program.

Through the ups and downs the band boosters and people of Elba have worked together to ensure that the Elba High School band program continues to grow and prosper, and Band Day has been a major ingredient in that prosperity for at least the past 20 to 30 years.

Band Day has served as the major fund raising event for the Elba band program, and the money generated through Band Day is used for a variety of things included transportation, purchasing new music, uniform cleaning fees, band awards, instrument maintenance, new instruments and many other items. In addition, a portion of the proceeds from Band Day are put into an account for the

future purchase of uniforms and instruments.

Although uniforms and instruments are not yearly costs for the band program, band booster representatives said it is important for the program to save monies for these items every chance they get. Both uniforms and instruments are costly items that have to be purchased at times, and it is good to have the money saved rather than having to worry about where that money will come when the occasion arises.

As for Saturday's event, there are several activities planned throughout the day to include performances by the band students and other local entertainers.

Also, the band boosters and students have been selling tickets for the annual barbecue plate dinner. These plates include meat, rice, slaw and bread and may be picked up on Band Day at the Senior Citizens Center beginning at 11 a.m. Anyone wishing to purchase a ticket should contact the Elba High School office at 897-2266. Tickets must be purchased before Saturday's event.

Jail for Bail is always a highlight event for Band Day as local adult "dignitaries" are incarcerated to raise money to

last-minute bidding. The bids will close at 12 Noon on Saturday, April 5. Some of the items turned in so far include a bench made from a bed headboard and footboard, a rocking chair with a matching mosaic table, a hand-woven porch swing, an Elba Tiger desk and child's rocker, two tables decoupage with pictures of band students and many other painted and refurbished chairs for both indoors and outdoors. Other items will be added up until Saturday.

Community support is vital

for the continued success and growth of the band program in Elba, and the Elba band boosters invite everyone to come out and join them on the square in Elba this Saturday, April 5.

"get out of jail", and this year, there will be a jail where children can pay to have their friends "locked up" until they can raise the bail to get out of jail.

A household items only yard sale is also planned and will be held in a location on the square.

An appearance at Band Day will be the "Musical Chairs" A Chair

Event. All types of hand-painted and decorated chairs and other items are currently on display at the local banks, and citizens may now offer bids on their favorite pieces by placing a bid on a sheet attached to each piece of furniture. On Saturday, the chairs will be moved to a stage at the courthouse for further viewing and

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

There is an interesting web site we look at each week. It's a NASA Earth Observatory site and includes interesting photos, shots from space, of the world's natural hazards. It includes fires, floods, storms, etc. This week a viewer could see the exact spot of each oil well fire in Iraq. Last week those monstrous dust storms were very clear (or dusty) in the pictures. For those computer bugs who are interested, the public is encouraged to regularly utilize the site at ehnounce@edolmo.gsfc.nasa.gov.

Governor Bob Riley is making some positive noises from Montgomery, but many of them will be hard to get past that noise stage. The cutting off of fancy cars, reducing travel expense for state employees, demanding "waste" be cut by all agencies, including the public schools, proposing fast tax refunds for all taxpayers, etc., are all soothing to the ears of stressed out Alabama taxpayers. Even the complaints about excessive park barrel spending by legislators reads well to most Alabama folks . . . until it curtails some special project back home. That last statement includes a clue to probably what will make it even so hard for Governor Riley to make meaningful changes in the way Alabama government is operated. Each person has a personal idea of what is wasteful, and that doesn't include the individual's pet project on the home turf or the expense money a family member receives.

This country is blessed with military experts. If you don't believe that, just tune your TV in on one of the endless news programs from the war zone. It is a time honored American tradition to have and voice opinions, some of these resident experts appear to actually be folks who were kicked out of the military because of their offbeat ideas (or lack of ideas) but still will not accept reality. Add to them our journalists friends who have actually shot an automatic pistol plus a military rifle and maybe rode in a real Army tank one afternoon while a military jet was zooming overhead, and we are blessed with experts. While their opinions and methods of fighting a war vary, these experts have even more varied and sunfire ways they could have prevented combat completely.

It is hard to realize that Spring is upon us already. Those beautiful spring flowers just slipped up on us during the last few weeks. Our favorite time of the year is Spring - in the springtime. Then comes Fall and our thoughts turn to that being our favorite. Summer also has a lot of pluses and it's not hard to find something to enjoy in the winter - if it is just sitting by a hot fire and roasting first one side and then the other.

Show your colors out of respect for our fighting men and women involved in the ongoing war. Pray for their safety.

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NCMEC provides hope in finding Alabama's missing children

**Editorial by
Senator Richard Shelby**

As Utah's Elizabeth Smart was safely returned to her family recently, many of us were reminded of the missing children in the United States who have not yet returned home.

Having a child missing is a horrible thing for families to bear, but there is hope for these parents because of the commitment of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

NCMEC serves as the central information-gathering and communication center for parents, children, law enforcement,

position unfilled, and desks in 17 classrooms are vacant. Most importantly, 17 sets of parents' hearts are broken because their child is not safe at home.

Having a child missing is a horrible thing for families to bear, but there is hope for these parents because of the commitment of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

NCMEC serves as the central information-gathering and communication center for parents,

schools and communities in recovering missing children. Each day, they are raising public awareness about ways to help prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. To their credit, they have recovered almost 70,000 missing children.

With technology like computer imaging, the internet, email and blast faxing, a family can notify NCMEC of their missing child and, in a very short time, posters will be available and distributed and the child's information will be accessible on NCMEC's website.

Improvements in technology have increased their ability to recover missing children.

Because the first few hours after a child's abduction are the most critical to his or her safe return, NCMEC has implemented new programs like LOCATER (Lost Child Alert Technology Resource), which is devoted to disseminating images and information to law enforcement as rapidly as possible.

With the assistance of Congress, NCMEC offers this technology, along with computers, at no charge to law enforcement in Alabama.

NCMEC has also initiated the

AMBER ALERT Plan, which is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to alert an entire community to a missing child. By alerting residents to key information about an abduction, they can help recover the child by paying attention to car descriptions and license plates. Finally,

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CHURCH & AREA NEWS

Westside Baptist Church announces installation of Bro. Bobby Holladay as pastor Sunday morning April 6.

Westside Baptist Church of Elba announces the installation of Bro. Bobby Holladay as pastor on Sunday morning, April 6, at the 10 o'clock worship service. The public is cordially invited.

Rev. Holladay is a native of Rulledge, Ala. and a graduate of Luverne High School. Upon his graduation he attended Masey Draughn College and Mobile College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion. Immediately after graduation from Mobile College he enrolled at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary where he earned the Master of Divinity

degree in 1983.

Rev. Holladay comes to Westside from the Director of Missions position in Salem-Troy Association in Troy, Ala. Prior to his position he was pastor of Summerside Baptist Church in Phenix City, Ala.

He and his family enjoyed 14 years of rewarding ministry.

His wife, Jeanette, is active in the church working and visiting along side her husband. They have been blessed with two daughters who are grown and on their own.

Westside is blessed to have Bro. Holladay invest his talents and gifts in the ministry in Elba.

Hebron Baptist Church to host Canaan Land Quartet at Gospel Singing

Hebron Baptist Church will hold a gospel singing on Saturday, April 12, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. The featured group will be the Canaan Land Quartet of Clanton, Ala. The church is located near the Pike and County line on Highway 87.

Shiloh Baptist Church to have Revival Services April 7-9

Revival Services will be held at Shiloh Baptist Church April 7-9 beginning at 7:00 p.m. nightly. The evangelist will be Rev. Wayne Sharpe. Everyone is invited to attend these services.

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***Thinking of you, praying for you: O.B. Daniels, Ella M. Brooks, Rev. Henry Ewing Jr., Lovie Hawks, Ernest Ellison, Rev. Charles Lane, Rev. N.L. Robinson, Gineather Paige, Faye Manning, Mason Guiley, Versie Barnes and Johnnie Ruth Belcher.

***Friendship Baptist Church will celebrate Rev. John M. Bryant's 17th Pastor's Anniversary on April 27, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. W.L. Peterson.

***Greater New Zion Baptist Church will celebrate Rev. W.L. Peterson's 17th Pastor's Anniversary on April 6, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. George Davis.

***Goshen First Baptist Church will hold Youth Day on April 6, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. and Youth Revival April 7-9, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. nightly.

***15th Anniversary of the Singing Kings of New Brockton, Ala. will be held April 5 and 6, 2003. The first session will be held Saturday, April 5, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at Popular Spring Baptist Church in New Brockton, Ala. The second session will be held Sunday, April 6, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. Other groups include: Fantastic Friends, Four Gospel Express, The Mighty Kings, and The Gospel Travelers. For more information call Ozella Head: 894-0332, Alvonya Nelson 894-5134, or Helen Burrows 894-6771.

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Otis is married to the former Joyce Belcher (formerly of Elba) who is an educator and an ordained minister in the Hopewell Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Their son, Michael DeLoney,

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He received the Title County Branch NAACP (Mobile Shools of Ozark, Ala.) 2000 NAACP Award for Outstanding Service to Education.

For outstanding services to Education to the citizens of the Shools area.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Baseball team breaks in field

by Sam Wambles

For the first time ever the members of the Zion Chapel baseball team do not have to drive to Elba to play a home baseball game. The Rebel baseball team finally has a field to play home baseball games on. When asked about the new field, head baseball coach John Donaldson said, "Playing the first game on our new field was an experience I will never forget. It was more about the day itself than the actual game. It was a big day for a lot of people that put their time, money, and effort into this project. I would personally like to thank these people. I am extremely blessed to work in the Jack community and at Zion Chapel High School. We are looking forward to many memorable moments on our new field."

Although the season has not been one to really brag about so far, it has had its high points. Several players on the team are having a good season at the plate including Josh Smith who hit the team's first home run. Brandon Arnold has picked up two wins on the mound to lead the Rebels from the top of the hill. Coach Donaldson said, "The season has been one of ups and downs thus far, but I think we have a chance to be a solid club before this season is over. We have had some highlights such as a win over 3A Pike County and an area win over Houston County. If the weather will stay good and allow us to get some quality practice in, I think everything will work out."

FFA NEWS

by Perry Cauthen

On Friday, February 28, the New Brook Farm Center hosted the County Career Development Events for FFA. Those who competed were Enterprise, Elba, Zion Chapel, New Brockton, and Kunston.

Zion Chapel member Eric Stokes won first place in the Safe Tractor Driving Contest. In this contest he identified the oil, the battery, and the fuel, and temperature before he started the tractor. He then proceeded to put on his seat belt, check the brakes, and begin driving the obstacle course. The obstacle course consisted of backing down a 40 foot alley with 12 inches of clearance, through four gates and putting the trailer in a shed that had only 6 foot of clearance.

Also competing were Macon Hodge, Ceira Smith, Marcus Moody, and Seth Legg who made up the Forestry team that won Second place. They participated in the compass course, as well as measured trees.

FCCLA students chosen to participate in Star Events

by Perry Cauthen

The 2003-04 JV cheerleaders will include: Courtney Grant, Heather Reeves, Brittany Cardwell, Chelsey Freeman, Lindsey Amlong, Kirsten Collins, Caitlin Grissett and Shea Sanders.

SCHOOL NEWS

by Perry Cauthen

The Zion Chapel High School cheerleading tryouts were held on February 28. There were twelve positions available on the varsity squad and eight to ten positions available on the junior varsity.

They all made it. Unfortunately there were fourteen that tried out for Junior Varsity and only eight made it. They had to learn two cheers, one chant and a dance.

The students trying out were taught by the senior cheerleaders.

The Varsity will be starting spring practices in April. They



**Zion Chapel High School
REBEL NEWS**
Rachel Bryan, Sponsor

Paez places first in peanut recipe contest

by Perry Cauthen

Nicky Paez, Zion Chapel's Historian for FCCLA, recently competed in the County FCCLA STAR event contest held in New Brockton on December 3 which hosted Zion Chapel, New Brockton, and Enterprise High Schools.

She competed in the Peanut Recipe contest where she earned first place. The dish had to be a main dish and was judged on the effectiveness and creative use of peanuts. The name of her prize-winning recipe was Hawaiian Chicken.

This award winning dish earned her the chance to compete again on April 12 at the State Level.

Zion Chapel holds cheerleading tryouts for 2003-04

by Ashley Wambles

Zion Chapel High School cheerleading tryouts were held on February 28. There were twelve positions available on the varsity squad and eight to ten positions available on the junior varsity.

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The students trying out were taught by the senior cheerleaders.

The Varsity will be starting spring practices in April. They

plan to attend summer camp in Panama City in June. After camp they will have summer practices to prepare for the upcoming year.

The Junior Varsity will begin practices in May to prepare for a private summer camp. During the summer they will have some time to prepare for the fall football season.

The 2003-2004 Varsity cheerleaders are Captain-Kim Rayburn, Co-Captain-Whitney Stephens, Amber Henderson, Meta Gaffin, Kenna Roberts, Nicole Brown, Kristen McLendon, Christina McWaters, Heather Sanders, Shae Manning, Courtney Dykes, and Hayden Osborn.

The 2003-2004 Junior Varsity cheerleaders are Captain-Heather Reeves, Co-Captain-Brittany Cardwell, Courtney Grant, Chelsea Freeman, Caitlin Grissett, Lindsey Amlong, Kirsten Collins, and Shay Sanders.

Zion Chapel students win at Math Olympiad

Chris Fuller, Michael Rayburn, Jonah Edmundson, and Donovan Kelly were winners in the Twenty-third Annual Tri-State Mathematics and Computer Science Olympiad held at Wallace Community College in Dothan.

Participation in the Olympiad had to attend a junior or senior high school whose location puts it in the Wallace Community College service area or within 90 miles of the Wallace Campus in Dothan. The schools could be either public or private.

The Olympiad was divided into three divisions in order to equalize competition among schools with similar populations. Although all students who competed in a designated contest took the same test, the scores were grouped into the three divisions in order that awards could be presented. Statistical analyses were performed and that was another reason for the three divisions. Each competition consisted of a timed, multiple-choice exam that lasted one hour.

Chris Fuller, a ninth grader, placed first in the Algebra I contest. Out of 100 contestants,



Zion Chapel's math olympiad winners: (seated, l to r) Michael Rayburn and Chris Fuller; (standing, l to r) Donovan Kelley and Jonah Edmundson

Edmundson placed third in the Computer Literacy contest and Donovan Kelly placed fifth in the Microcomputer Applications contest.

Chris's score was the highest. Michael Rayburn placed second in the Advanced Math contest. He competed against 53 other contestants. Jonah

placed first on April 12 at the State Level.

varsity and junior varsity squads

by Ashley Wambles

and Amanda Perry

Zion Chapel High School

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The 2003-04 JV cheerleaders will include: Courtney Grant, Heather Reeves, Brittany Cardwell, Chelsey Freeman, Lindsey Amlong, Kirsten Collins, Caitlin Grissett and Shea Sanders.

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Over 60 students from Ala., Ga., and Fla. attended the Brass Symposium at TSU. Pictured are (left to right) Dave "Doc" Kirby, emcee for the event and program director for WTBF-FM 94.7; Dr. Jim Zingara, professor of trumpet at TSU and the organizer of the annual symposium; Melanie Perry, trumpet player in the ZCHS Band; Elizabeth Weeks, trumpet player in the Elba High Band; and Michael Bird, band director and music teacher at ZCHS.

The tryouts were comprised of five major scales and two sightreading pieces.

"Interest in band this semester has remained very high," Mr. Bird continued. "We have six students trying out for drum major, twenty-four for color guard, and three for majorette," he said. "I

am excited to see what the future holds."

Michael Bird, band director, told the newspaper staff, "Out of 40-plus students, I selected the top 29 of the musicians for the advanced band, and a tremendous musical experience." Mr. Bird said, "The clinicians were outstanding and the campus was beautiful. I am proud of Melanie and Jeremy for attending."

Kim and Tracy will be competing in a team called Focus on Children. It is a competition that requires some type of project in the school or in the community. They decided that special

education and the students

enrolled in the special education

program would become the focus of their project. They have made pillows for each student enrolled in the program so that they

children

would have a comfortable

sleeping environment. They have met with the classes and read to the students. The project has included reading to students at Zion Chapel and New Brockton. They have donated some new books for the classroom of Mrs. Karen Petry. After returning from spring break, Kim and Tracy will visit the elementary school at Zion Chapel and read to the selected classes twice a week for a hour each time.

The competition will end with the State Events on April 14.

Zion Chapel performs at district contest at Troy State University

Each year the Zion Chapel

High School Band performs at

District VIII Alabama

Bandsman's Association

Concert Band Festival, held in

Troy State University in late

February.

The band meets on Mondays,

Tuesdays, and Thursdays after

school in January and February to prepare for this festival. This year, the band received a rating of "Excellent" for its performance.

The concert band performed "Valdes," a Norwegian march by Johannes Hansen; "This Is My Father's World," a traditional hymn beautifully arranged by Fred Allen; and "Cloudburst," a contemporary piece composed by Susan Christiansen.

We held auditions in

December for everyone.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Remember to Replace Those Smoke Alarms

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in the United States a person dies in a fire every 2.5 hours and another is injured every 24 minutes. Alabama has ranked among the top 10 states nationally for fire-related deaths and injuries for the past decade. Those most at risk are children ages 5 and under, and adults ages 65 and older.

The most common causes of residential fires are cooking and heating sources, and the most common cause of fire deaths is smoking. A working smoke alarm reduces the chance of dying in a fire by 50 percent. The following tips are suggested for proper maintenance of a smoke alarm.

For more information on fire safety, please contact the Injury Prevention Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health at 334-206-5300, or visit the Web site at www.adph.org/injuryprevention.

ZC Elementary School celebrates Dr. Seuss' birthday

by DeAnn Wallace

Zion Chapel Elementary School was buzzing with talk about the green eggs & ham they had eaten for breakfast, the red top hats the teachers were wearing, and what their favorite Dr. Seuss books were.

On Monday, March 3, 2003, we celebrated "Dr. Seuss' Birthday - Read Across America Day." All the faculty and staff got into the mood of the day by wearing shirts with the different characters from all the books, read and white top hats, and guest readers. Even the lunch-

room personnel had a special breakfast made of green eggs and ham for all the students to enjoy.

During the day students participated in fun activities such as making top hats, drawing pictures, writing stories, and reading books.

Throughout the day the sound of children's laughter filled the hallways.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the day with all the fun filled activities there were to do.

Mrs. DeAnn Wallace's 4th grade English class had a grand day while learning about Dr. Seuss. First, Mrs. Wallace welcomed each of her students wearing a top hat. "Mrs. Wallace," Alekia began, as she grinned from ear to ear, "You look so silly!" Next, we began by reading the biography of Dr. Seuss. Brandon stated, "You mean Seuss is a pen name?" Wesley replied, "What is a pen name?" As the class began we had good discussion questions about Dr. Seuss. Then, the class got into the mood by making their own Cat In The Hat top hats. Some students made a traditional hat of red and white, while others chose a more colorful arrangement.

Mrs. Debra Herron, ZCES

The students enjoyed guest readers

guidance counselor, was also in the mood for Dr. Seuss stories. She visited our class and read, Fox In Socks. As she prepared to read Mrs. Wallace told her, "Be careful this book is a tongue twister!" The students were seated in front of her as she began reading the book. Once she finished she replied, "You were right, Mrs. Wallace, this book will make your tongue numb!" The students also looked at other books by Dr. Seuss and some volunteered to read to the rest of the class.

Our class had Herby McCall as a guest reader. He read the books, Green Eggs & Ham, and Are You My Mother? The students all enjoyed our reader and had a blast as he read. After Mr. McCall finished the students worked on a culminating activity about Green Eggs & Ham. Finally, they returned to their room for lunch.

The entire elementary school enjoyed our "Read Across America Day". Students learned that reading can be as much fun as watching cartoons. Across our nation "Read Across America" programs are used to enhance students' creative thinking and motivate them to become lifelong readers.

Kinston Schools develops School Improvement Plan

Kinston School is in the process of developing a School Improvement Plan as part of the accreditation requirement of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). This process is well under way and will be a major focus of the school for the next year. Parents, community leaders and school personnel have adopted the following seven beliefs for Kinston Schools:

- Student learning is the chief priority for the school with students' learning needs the primary focus of all decisions impacting the work of the school.

- Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs.

- The commitment to continuous improvement is imperative if the school is going to enable student to become confident, self-directed, life-long learners.

- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.

- Students learn in different ways and should be provided with a variety of instructional approaches to support their learning.

- Students learn best when they are actively engaged in the learning process.

- Students need to not only demonstrate their understanding of essential knowledge and skills, but also need to be actively involved in solving problems and producing quality work.

- A mission statement was formulated and selected by the same group of stakeholders as stated above. The following is the mission statement for Kinston School:

- Kinston School is committed to providing students with a safe environment and a challenging yet developmentally appropriate curriculum. Students are expected to be active members of the learning process and are encouraged to become confident, self-directed, lifelong learners.

- This statement reflects the belief that we hold about our school and will provide the foundation for all policies, procedures and guidelines that support the achievement of the desired results for student learning at Kinston School.



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Don't miss the CEC Annual Membership Meeting on April 3



Thursday, April 3

COVINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Andalusia Kiwanis Community Center

Registration — 3 p.m.

Entertainment — 5:30 p.m.

Business Session — 7 p.m.

You Could Win!

In addition to six major prizes, about 30 other gifts will be awarded. Registered Covington Electric Cooperative members will receive a free outdoor thermometer, calculator, magnetic message board, and other useful items. Prizes will be awarded immediately following the business session. Members must be present to win any of the six major prizes. For complete rules and regulations, please see the March issue of *Alabama Living* magazine.



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Call 222-4121 or 1-800-239-4121 for more information about the 2003 CEC Annual Membership Meeting, or visit our Web site at www.cov-elect.com.



Family Entertainment

The Hoppers of Madison, N.C., will entertain the crowd during this year's meeting. During their long career, the Hoppers have enjoyed many popular hit releases. They've had five releases peak at number one, including the songs, "Shouting Time," "Here I am" and "Anchor To The Power."

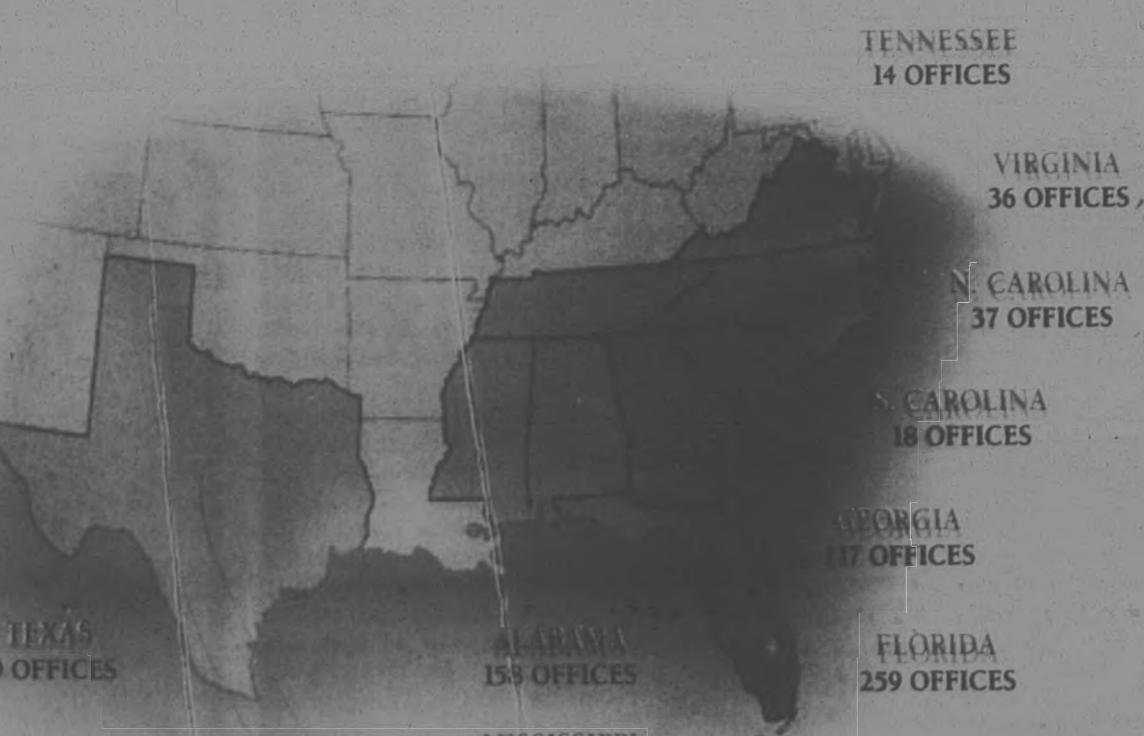


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SPORTS

Views from... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Both of our girls got kittens several months ago, and now that the kittens have grown into cats, they have learned the ways of the world, at least around the Mularz house. I am usually the one that feeds the cats, and they have learned that when the sun comes up in the morning they must split up and cover both the back door and side door to make certain I don't head off to work without filling up their bowls. The cats will whine from the time the sun comes up until they are fed just to remind us they are hungry, and will follow every step we make until someone heads into the storage room. I am not really fond of cats, but I will admit these two have us all figured out.

SWINGS AND MISSES...

*** The Elba Tigers competed in last week's Ariton Spring Break Baseball Tournament and posted a 2-2 record to place third in the six-team event. The Tigers did post wins over county rivals Kinston and New Brockton, but got roughed up by Pike County in a 15-0 loss, and then lost to Pike County again, this time 7-5 in the final game of the tournament. The Tigers did do some damage at the plate as they collected 33 hits in the four games and had 11 doubles, 3 triples and 1 home-run, but struggled on the mound as the Tiger staff allowed 34 hits, 20 walks and hit 6 batters. Elba still has the team's schedule ahead, and the Tigers must find a way to regain their confidence both at the plate and in the field if they hope to keep the area title here in Elba.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers took the week off after posting a 1-2 record at a tournament up in Troy, and it will be interesting to see just how the girls bounce back from their first two losses of the season. The Lady Tigers have one of the area's top young pitchers in Stephanie Baxley and always expect to win when she is on the rubber. However, the tournament did reveal a possible weakness at the plate that could prove fatal against good pitching, and the Lady Tigers will have to put in extra hours in the cage and at the plate in practice if they hope to keep on winning. Elba's schedule is favorable for the girls to start another winning streak, but the key will be how much the girls improve and not just their record as the season rolls along toward the region tournament.

*** Even though they played well last week in the Ariton tournament, the big team in the event had to be the New Brockton Gamecocks. The Gamecocks had struggled throughout the season and entered the tourney with a 1-3 record, but finally woke up and posted a 1-3 record in the six-team event to even their record at 4-4 with key area games just ahead. New Brockton had managed to find a way to lose games early on that they could have won, and now that the Gamecocks know how to win, may be they will get on a roll and step forward in the 2A race.

*** CBS was already crying the blues about the ratings for the NCAA tournament due to TV coverage of the war, but after Saturday's upset the CBS sports officials have to be wondering just what is going on. It was considered a sure thing heading into the tourney that Kentucky would meet Arizona in the semifinals, and the so-called sports experts even criticized the NCAA for putting the two best teams in the same side of the bracket. Now that Marquette has knocked off Kentucky and Kansas has eliminated Arizona, the sports reporters will have to find something else to write about, and the folks at CBS will have to hope the nation's college basketball fans will still tune in.

*** Alabama held its annual "A Day" game Saturday and new coach Mike Price made it clear that he wanted points scored as he put the starters on one side of the ball and back-ups and walk-ons on the other in a lopsided game that really accomplished very little. Brodie Croyle passed at will against the Tide reserves and gave Tide fans hopes that Alabama's new wide-open attack will result in lots of points, while the Bama defensive starters also dominated play and had some big hits. Now if Alabama can just find an opponent as bad as its reserves maybe it can win a bunch of games next season. The problem is that the Tide is still in the SEC, and the competition will be a little tougher.

*** In closing, many Elba parents will find their schedule even busier than ours next week when the youth baseball and softball leagues start their seasons and go head to head with the high school teams in both sports. I would imagine Mom and Dad will take turns going to games to support their youngsters, and make certain that all the kids know they are in the stands cheering. Get ready parents, the time is near!

UMPIRES MEETING

Anyone ages 16 and above who wishes to umpire baseball & softball this season in Elba should attend a meeting Sunday, April 6, at 7 PM at the Elba Recreation Center.

For more information call 897-6833

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Marcus Henderson pitched a one-hitter to lead Elba to a 14-4 win over Kinston last week in the Ariton Spring Break baseball Tournament.

Elba falls twice to Pike County

The Elba Tigers staged a late rally to bury the Kinston Bulldogs 14-4, in opening round action on Monday afternoon.

Kinston took advantage of three walks to score two runs in the top of the fourth to grab a 4-2 lead. However, the Tigers quickly cut into the lead as Brandon Petty led off the bottom of the inning with a triple and later scored on an RBI single by Kyle English.

The Bulldogs added two runs without a hit in the third inning to up their lead to 4-4, but the Tigers again answered the challenge and this time pushed across two runs to pull within 4-3. A one-out double by Brandon Petty ignited the Elba rally, while Kyle English knocked in Petty with a long sacrifice fly. Jason Curran drew a two-out walk and then raced home with the Tigers' second run of the inning when Marcus Henderson ripped a double to center.

Elba took advantage of two walks and two-out single by Rick Smith to take its first lead of the game at 5-4 in the bottom of the fifth, then put an end to the game in the bottom of the sixth as the Tigers battered around and scored nine runs to claim the big 14-4 win.

Ralston Moore ripped 2 triples, scored 2 runs and knocked in 2 runs to lead Elba at the plate, while Ryan Gibbs added 2 hits and scored the winning run. Derrick Thomas was the starting pitcher for the Tigers and pitched 5 and 1/3 innings, allowing 8 runs on 7 hits and 4 walks, while Brandon Petty got the win in relief as he came in and pitched 1 and 2/3 innings and allowed 1 run on 3 hits, while striking out 2 batters.

The Gamecocks capped their lead to 6-4 in the top of the second, only to see the Tigers match the run when Jason Curran was hit by a pitch and then raced home on a triple by Ralston Moore, and then pull even at 6-6 when Moore raced home on a wild pitch.

Neither team scored for the next three innings as the score remained tied at 6-6 heading into the top of the sixth. However, the Gamecocks were far from being finished and

Elba error off the bat of Matthew Curran all got 1 run, sandwiched around two ground outs as the Tigers had one man on base with two outs. However, things got wild for the Tigers when Marcus Henderson ripped a double to center.

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Elba took advantage of two walks

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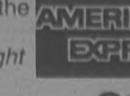
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The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 43

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, April 10, 2003

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Local law enforcement officers make several drug arrests within three week period

Law enforcement officers from the Elba Police Department and Coffee County Sheriff's Department continue to wage war on the manufacture, possession and use of illegal drugs in the area, and jointly made several more arrests and drug seizures throughout the past three weeks.

Elba Police Chief R.W.

(Ronnie) Whitworth and Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates commanded the officers for their efforts in the battle against the drug epidemic, and together said they hope these efforts will help to get a stronghold on this growing problem.

Throughout the three week period, spanning from March 14-

April 1, officers with the two departments arrested 19 individuals on various drug charges.

On Friday, March 14, officers were in the process of serving a felony warrant on Phillip David Brown for possession of a controlled substance when they noticed the strong odor of methamphetamine from inside his residence. According to reports, Brown invited officers into the residence, and they found a meth lab sitting on a makeshift table in the kitchen area. At that point, the lab was disassembled and evidence was collected by the officers. A hazardous materials disposal company was contacted to take possession of the materials and chemicals used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Philip David Brown was arrested on the warrant for unlawful possession of a controlled substance and was also charged with unlawful manufacture of a controlled substance, first degree. He was placed in the Coffee County Jail under a \$10,500 bond and

Summons Street in Elba. Upon receiving consent to search the home, officers found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia.

Arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia were Cynthia Ellis Stephens, age 37, of Elba, Rex Roman Rhodes, age 57, of Brantley, and James Ray Sanders, age 31, of Glenwood. Sanders was also charged with tampering with evidence.

Stephens and Rhodes were placed in the Coffee County Jail under a \$10,500 bond each and Sanders was placed in the jail with his bond set at \$11,500.

Also on Friday, March 21, Elba police officer Kevin Wise recovered approximately one pound of marijuana after initiating a routine traffic stop. Arrested were Otis LaVaughn Daniels, age 25, of Luverne, and Franklin Louis Daniels, age 41, of Elba. Both were released on bond and are awaiting the case to go before the grand jury.

On Monday, March 27, officers executed a search warrant at the residence of David and Brenda Lee, 109 Durham St. New Brockton, and found what they referred to as an elaborate type lab being concealed in the attic of the home. Officers said chemicals and assorted cookware were being concealed in the kitchen area, and a very large amount of hazardous waste was found in and around the home. Also, a substantial amount of "meth oil" and powdered methamphetamine was discovered.

David and Brenda Lee, age 39, of New Brockton, Brenda Faye Lee, age 38, of New Brockton, and Cody Landon Stephens, age 19, of Dothan, were arrested and charged with the manufacture of methamphetamine, first degree, possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

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